



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007

No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who commanded humanity to be fruitful, bless our Senators in their work. Help them to be faithful in the discharge of their duties and honorable in all of their dealings. Give them self-control in speech and temper as You empower them to be models of humility and thoughtfulness. Strengthen them to labor so that in thoughts, words, and deeds they may glorify You.

Lord, give them the wisdom to build new bridges of friendship and to discover fresh opportunities for service. May their labors for liberty be as the light of morning when the Sun rises and like the tender grass springing out of the Earth.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following whatever time the leaders utilize, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with each side controlling 30 minutes and the majority going first.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4.

Yesterday, I offered a unanimous-consent agreement to have votes on the pending amendments relating to collective bargaining. There was an objection to that request.

In view of that objection, I indicated I would move to table the DeMint amendment, and I will make that motion at 12 noon today, so Members can expect the first vote at noon today.

Today being Tuesday, the Senate will recess at 12:30 until 2:15 for our weekly conferences.

I would also like to remind Members that tomorrow at 11 o'clock, King Abdullah, the King of Jordan, will address a joint meeting of Congress in the House Chamber. The Senate will depart for the House Chamber around 10:45 a.m.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 761

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that S. 761 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 761) to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this piece of legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every morning I get up and do my exercise. It takes me about an hour to go out and do what I do in the morning. This morning was very cold. I listen to the radio. I listen to the news every morning. It is with a heavy heart that I finished my exercise this morning and came into my home and got ready to come to work.

Nine American soldiers were killed in Iraq yesterday. I don't know how many were wounded. I don't know how many were grievously wounded. But I have to focus on those nine soldiers and their families.

I am fortunate. I am one of four sons. My brother Dale died as a young man, and I still have not gotten over my brother Dale dying at 46, 47 years old. I know his death is not comparable, of course, to these valiant soldiers who were killed in Iraq yesterday, but he is still my brother and I still feel very badly.

I can't imagine how the nine soldiers' families feel today. Some of them have not yet been notified that their loved one has been killed, but most of them by now have been notified. This is a reminder of what is happening in Iraq thousands of miles from here but affecting the lives of everyday Americans. The current approach isn't working. We need to change course in Iraq.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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